

Mr. Carr

Presented by the Author,
Edw. H. H. H. Esq.

W. H. H. of 1812

Lieut. Haines' Oration.

James M. Smith
1844

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AN
ORATION,

Pronounced

AT

Portsmouth, New-Hampshire ;

4th MARCH 1809.



By SAMUEL HAINES, A. M.

*" Now falls our Flag, if Britain's pirates nod," —
" Shame to our land, there are, who kiss the rod."
" Rebellious faction stabs our peace at home,"
" And Catalines prepare to fire our Rome !"*

EVERETT.

PORTSMOUTH :

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1809.

—
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NOTES

1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is pointed out that the study of history is not only a means of understanding the past, but also a means of understanding the present and the future. The author argues that the study of history is essential for the development of a nation and for the progress of the world.

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AN
ORATION.

Americans,

WHEN truth and virtue triumph on earth, the trophies of their achievements are honored in heaven. When the sons of men exhibit to the world, and to their God, deeds of righteousness, the voice of eulogy and of praise ascends to the throne of Jehovah, and mingles with the congratulations of angels.

When the trump of fame proclaims to the universe the vanquishment of the demon of despotism, and the frustration of his mad designs, and nefarious machinations, the goddess of liberty adds a new laurel to her wreath of victory, and a fresh plume to her crown of glory.

The contravention and overthrow of the disorganizing intrigues of wicked men, combined to disturb the public peace, and weaken the energies of the best of governments, yield to the patriot and philanthropist joys ineffable.

The electoral conquest, which, this day, awakens the patriotic sensibilities of the friends of union and of social order, is transcendently glorious in the splendid annals of the American republic.

In beholding a treason-engendered faction, driven by the truth-directed artillery of republican energy and patriotism, from the insidious position of the political ambuscade, which covered the designing chiefs of their embattled ranks, the genius of liberty retires triumphant from the field of action, and invites congenial spirits to participate of the choice fruits of the victory.

The auspicious occasion we are assembled to celebrate claims pre-eminent honors in the archives of our beloved country. Never, since the establishment of our National Independence, have American freemen had such abundant cause for public rejoicings, as in realizing the glorious event, which, this day, calls forth the reciprocal felicitations of republicans.

As the cheering radiance of that memorable morn of Columbian freedom, *July the fourth seventeen hundred and seventy-six*, burst upon the astonished world in all the glories of a new creation ; so does the eventful *fourth of March eighteen hundred and nine*, display to anxious millions the same genial sun of republicanism breaking thro' the portentous clouds of misrule and political delusion, in all the splendours of his meridian effulgence.

As the venerable heroes of the revolution met the invading foe with dauntless magnanimity, and, in spite of the dangers, that surrounded them, snatched independence from the vortex of destruction ; so have the present supporters of our rights, our liberties, and our laws, though threatened with the storms of faction within, and with the tempests of hostility from without, rescued our country and its honor from the verge of national degradation.

A visible line of political demarkation has at length been drawn between the real friends and long suspected foes of the American republic.---The veil of false patriotism, which has too long concealed, from public view, the latent machinations of internal enemies, has been rent asunder. The infernal conspiracies of the dark plotting satellites of America, as developed, since our Presidential election, have estampéed indelible infamy upon the leaders of these midnight incendiaries. An enlightened and independent people, still cherishing the pure principles of the revolution, and aware of the designs of the daring assassins of liberty to mar the splend'd fabrick our fathers reared amid the din of arms and British thunder's burning vengeance, have driven them from their work of destruction, back to the dark clandestine retreats from whence they sallied.

The merited promotion of the illustrious patriot and statesman, who, this day, takes possession of the Chief Magistracy of the United States of America, guarantees the integrity of the general government, and the preservation of our national sovereignty.

The venerable Constitution of our political compact, which should ever be regarded as the sacred palladium of our dearest rights, appears once more deposited in the

sanctuary of executive protection. This grand ark of republican freedom, notwithstanding the audacious attempts and joint efforts of both foreign and domestic enemies to set her afloat upon the tempestuous ocean of rebellion and of civil war, is again safely moored in the strong ground of tried patriotism and of experienced wisdom.

The important national transaction, which forms the present fruitful theme of public eulogium seems no less than a second declaration of our nations independence of transatlantic domination.

Beset with the same description of malignant adversaries who once endeavoured to bind our country in tyrant chains, the patriots of Columbia have aroused from their peaceful slumberings, and again begirt their loins with the holy armour of self-defence.

Republicans have arisen in their strength, and magnanimously averted the impending blow designed by the warring powers of Europe to crush the neutral independence of the American States. In firmly resisting the lawless depredations the great belligerent nations of the east have wontonly committed upon our commercial rights, the supporters of administration have shewn themselves worthy of the proud appellation of republican freemen.

In these days of peril, of violence, and of unparalleled revolution, when the political world is convulsed to its centre ;--when insatiable ambition armed with power irresistible usurps the lawful dominion of the long established principles of national justice ;--when the powerful States and kingdoms of the earth pass away as a scrawl before the desolating hand of war ; supernatural wisdom and energy seem necessary to preserve the American Republic from the general wreck of empire.

Essentially and constitutionally hostile to the vital principles of republican freedom, the mighty monarchies of the east are co-operating in their exertions to expel liberty from the world :--But the bold pinioned Eagle of America is still seen soaring amid the angry collision of those wind woven clouds of sulphurous faction (surcharged with the nitrick gases of Britanical influence) which

have darkened the political horizon of the western hemisphere. His towering height defies all the poisoned quivers, foreign despotism and internal treason are able to throw from their complicated artillery.

At the present alarming crisis of our national concerns when all the native energies of our country should be concentrated for general defence; when all local animosities and political distinctions should be lost in one universal blaze of patriotism;—astonishing to relate!—a minor party, of no inconsiderable pretensions, however, refuse to obey the solemn invocation of their country! When the sovereignty, independence and dignity of the only republic, and free government remaining on the face of the globe, are at stake; the opposition, even when their civil rights and dearest interests are involved in the dissolution of our federal compact, seem resolved to revenge their political disappointments, by subverting the dear bought liberties of their country. To arrest their mad career of violence, sentiments of conciliation, benevolence and christian charity, have been addressed to their hearts; arguments of interest, of union, of public welfare and of self preservation, have been offered to their understandings, in language simple as truth, and as conclusive as demonstration itself:—The voice of an injured country hath invoked unanimity.—Nay, the blood of our revolutionary martyrs hath been heard from the ground!—The solemn eloquence of the death-sleeping fathers of our surviving republic hath spoken from the tomb!—The heaven-enthroned spirit of our departed Chief hath descended on a beam of his celestial glory, and whisper'd awful admonitions to his rebellious children beneath the spheres!—Yet, they heed it not, nor is their wrath abated.

Though possessed of a government, as superior in excellence and enjoyment, as the sublime fruitions of Paradise transcend in happiness the soul-tormenting horrors of the damned, these self-styled “friends of order” appear ripe for “treason, stratagems and spoils.” This restless minority of the land, though realizing their full proportion of the rich boon of the elective franchise, seem; rather than conform to the constitutional measures

* Ah Samson! you will go to
hell,

of the "powers that be," resolved on rending asunder, with revolutionary violence, the golden cords of our national union.

To the astonishment of the world—beneath that hallowed ground, where the lightnings of American patriotism first paralyzed the arm of British tyranny, has first been heard the dread alarms of civil war's earth-pent volcano!—Memorable Bunker's mouldering monuments of martyred heroes have felt the trembling shocks of its subterraneous thunders!

The dire explosion seems already to have parted these time-tarnished memorials of fallen valour, from their blood-cemented bases;—The war-entombed manes of valiant WARREN appear rudely torn from their silent repose and given to the four conflicting winds of heaven!

Yes, within the peninsula of Boston, where the bold intrepid eloquence of an ADAMS and a HANCOCK once chased the ears of British tyrants, and stained conviction on the mind of every trembling Felix; where the ethereal flame of patriotism first electrized the generous bosoms of Columbia's free born sons; where the sacred altar of American freedom first smoked with holy incense to the God of battles;—even there, has hydra faction burrowed deep its dark and serpentine domain;—whence loathsome reptiles sally forth in all their envenomed forms of furious treason, to prey upon the fairest fruit of freedom's verdant tree.

Great God! what base degeneracy of political virtue: What shameful dereliction of that sacred principle of moral integrity, which holds society together!—What abominable abandonment of that patriotism, of that love of liberty, which warmed the bosoms and braced the nerves of those brave worthies, who disenthralled oppressed Columbians from British tyranny's iron grasp!

Though meek eyed charity drops the tear of compassion upon the blind fold folly of deluded honesty; and speaks to benighted reason, and misguided virtue, the language of conciliation in accents as gentle and soothing as the balmy zephyrs of the vernal morn; yet stern, unbending justice, from this exalted throne of spotless

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purity, thunders denunciations dire on all the dark designs of plotting mischief and of hell-born treason.

The instigators of internal dissention, and of indiscriminate opposition to constitutional authority ; who even justify the hostile and lawless measures of transatlantic foes, are justly denounced as treasonable enemies of their country.

Though republicans, in tendering their national allegiance to the illustrious successor of the venerable sage of Monticello, reciprocate, on this occasion, the "feast of reason," and the generous "flow of soul;" yet vain glorious exultation over fallen faction is not the impulse, that swells their patriotic breasts. Nor do they boast of laurels plucked from the brow of political adversaries giving way to the triumphal car of electoral victory. Neither does the promotion of personal merit and of exalted, veteran wisdom to the distinguished behest of executive honors, excite the high wrought sensibilities, which flow on this occasion in generous currents of convivial joy.

No Americans, these are not the laudable motives which have convened the present numerous assembly of republican patriots. The triumph of the sublime principles of our glorious revolution, for which our fathers toiled and bled ; and in support of which, we, their grateful offspring, should not be parsimonious of life, is alone worthy of our present patriotic devotions.—A faithful transmission of these fundamental principles of our republican system of government from one administration to another gives increased stability, and accumulating glory to the American Republic.

A political change of public ministers, and a consequent submission to the lawless exactions of transatlantic plunderers would have been as truly deplorable as the present occasion is worthy of joyous commemoration. The continuation, as guaranteed by the recent election of President, of the independent policy, which has characterized the splendid course of the late administration, reflects not less honor upon the political integrity and discernment of the sovereign people, who willed it, than it

promises future results of benefit to our country and of dignity to our national character.

The great question of diplomatic controversy between this country and the rival belligerents of Europe seems unalterably settled. The doubt whether this nation will pusillanimously submit to the abominable usurpations of foreign despots, and thus be reduced to more than colonial degradation, no longer impeaches the native energies of American magnanimity. The high ground of the resisting policy, and neutral impartiality, which our insulted Cabinet assumed at the commencement of our commercial embarrassments, we trust will be still maintained with inflexible intrepidity. A firm, just, and energetic course of measures is the only policy, competent to carry our republic through the conflicting elements of the political world, which mark these extraordinary and mad times. Our patriotic administration have taken this magnanimous course, and the salvation of our country depends on its vigorous and complete execution.

Immediately upon the promulgation of the notorious commerce-killing decrees of the great European belligerents, official remonstrances, as spirited and independent as their grounds were just and incontrovertible, were made, by our ministers, to the respective Cabinets, whence these plundering edicts proceeded.

This loud and fearless voice of justice and of righteous complaint passed, however, as the idle wind through the unsanctified councils of these rival freebooters of the ocean. Universal capture and indiscriminate condemnation of neutral merchandize were the only replications given to the solemn appeals of our intrepid plenipotentiaries.

In this singular and perilous situation of our country a two fold measure of precaution and of coercion has been necessarily resorted to by those enlightened councils whom the sovereign people have deliberately chosen as most competent to direct the destinies of the nation. When the hostile decrees of France and of England mutually laid violent hold of the neutral commerce of America, a general Embargo on our own exports appeared

the most expedient alternative within the discernment of congressional wisdom.

Solicitous in subserving the best interests of their country, administration hesitated not to hazard their own well earned popularity in adopting and executing this energetic, but indispensable measure. As immediate War, Embargo, or servile submission were the only courses within the sphere of public action, the choice, which government have made, naturally followed as the less national calamity.

To retreat from the ocean, the opposition pretend, is pusillanimous. But when our naval strength is totally inadequate to enforce our maritime rights, a temporary abandonment of the high seas, when covered with hostile fleets, feeding on plunder, is no less expedient and honorable, than a timely retreat of an inferior army, whose judicious retirement from the field of Mars, saves it from inevitable defeat, destruction and death.

The ascendant power of the British navy entirely forbids all naval competition in maritime warfare 'till America becomes superior to England in wealth and population. Men, therefore, who denounce administration for calling home our wide spread commerce to our own shores for preservation, 'till the restoration of national law, and neutral privileges shall tranquilize the troubled surface of the mighty deep, betray either a total ignorance of general policy, or unpardonable hostility to the best interests and welfare of their country.

The present unfortunate interruption of our usual national prosperity has been as unavoidable as it is unparalleled and unjust. Government have been as vigilant in protecting the rights and securing the happiness of the people, as the provident eagle is watchful in nourishing and preserving her unfledged brood. Rather than surrender, by submitting in the least possible degree to foreign taxation, that liberty, that sovereignty, that independence, which the heroes and sages of the revolution established upon the imperishable basis of natural right and eternal justice, those Americans, who still feel the pure blood of their virtuous ancestors circulating in their

veins, will expend their lives and their fortunes in defending the native land of their fathers.

If American commerce be an essential advantage to England, her imperious mandates will ultimately operate their own revocation.—If Britain be not injured by a non-intercourse with this country, or by the loss of her extensive Provinces here, then her blockading orders will continue ; and consequently become forever irreconcilable with the unalienable rights of neutral nations.

“ To be, or not to be ” is the momentous question. In this angry age of political desolation, when mighty governments are continually falling in wild confusion from their towering heights of ancient splendor, our enviable republic cannot but tremble to its deep foundations. That general crush of empires, which have buried beneath their ruins the nations of the eastern world, should fill Americans with fearful apprehension. When the magnificent sanctuary of our national independence is collaterally smitten by the conflicting violence of European warfare, those citizens, who refuse to exercise the duties of their civil and natural allegiance, in rallying around the constituted authorities of their country ;—in joining that impenetrable phalanx of sentimental as well as physical strength, which should always encircle our federal Constitution in times like the present, are unworthy the common air of civilized society.

America, *united*, is unconquerable : with but one front, one volition, and one action, all the mad hosts, combined Europe could disgorge upon our shores, would leave their blood to enrich our cornfields. But America, *divided*, is that moment half subdued :—The common enemy then seizes the golden opportunity and completes the half finished work of destruction. The dreadful tragedies now acting on the sanguinary theatre of Spanish folly evince to the shuddering world the horrors of internal dissention and of civil war’s career of fury and of carnage !

A people, who prefers the sordid accumulation of silver and gold to the untarnished prize of civil liberty are tyranny’s basest menials and slavery’s legitimate offspring. If Americans will not, after gliding down the full tide

of prosperity, ease and increasing luxury, for more than thirty years, for a season endure the partial privations of the present adverse times, they deserve to wear for centuries the uncouth government of Goths and Vandals. Could the disorganizing minority but realize for a moment the disastrous consequences of their contemplated separation of the States, they would "lay their hands upon their mouths, and their mouths in the dust, and cry unclean, unclean, Lord of Hosts forgive our iniquities." If civil war must ere long, drench Columbia's fertile and verdant domains in the frantic blood of slaughtered kindred, we implore the God of battles, it may spend it's fury before the hoary veterans of *seventy-five*, who yet live, shall pass beyond the stars. They have once conversed with England's thundering cannon; they have once dispersed the menial Jackals that crouched around the British lion: and when the minority shall take up arms against the Constitutional Laws of the majority, and attempt to wade to government and power through the innocent blood of their patriotic countrymen; when that Junto of Rebel Tories and their mortgaged hosts of servile minions, who are this moment fanning the angry flame of civil discord, shall "strike" their meditated blow of insurrection, the sleeping swords of war worn whigs and of their patriotic offspring shall leap from their scabbards and put the fiend-like foe to flight.

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The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various offices of the County of Middlesex, for the year 1850. The names are arranged in alphabetical order, and are given in full, with their respective offices. The names are as follows: [The text is extremely faded and illegible in this section.]